

12 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Information on the CRITIC System

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. I understand that you have been informed directly by DD/P that they had decided to change the procedures governing the handling of CRITIC messages in Washington and that these will now receive automatic handling.
3. I have checked with the members of the Critical Communications Committee concerning the problem of lateral dissemination of CRITIC messages in the field. All members assured me that their field reporting personnel are required to pass copies of CRITIC messages to the representatives of other agencies in local areas. All agencies also require the CRITIC information to be passed to other interested headquarters. This is done either by the transmission of the same information in a separate message to these addressees or they are added as information addressees to the original CRITIC messages. The selection of the method used depends on the specific communications problem created by the method. It is the intent of the Committee that information addressees be added to a CRITIC message only if their addition will not delay receipt of the message in Washington.

W. A. TIDWELL
Chairman
Critical Communications Committee